

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 11-13, and 15-22 are pending in this application. Applicants note with appreciation that the Office Action indicates that claim 6 is allowable. Claims 4, 8, 13 and 22 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 12, and 15 are amended herein for clarity to more particularly define the invention. New claims 23-31 are added herein. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found in the language of original claims 1-21 and throughout the specification as filed. Thus, it is believed that no new matter is added by these amendments and new claims and their entry and consideration are respectfully requested. In light of these amendments, new claims and the following remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and allowance of the pending claims to issue.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

A. Claims 2, 4, 11-13, 16-18 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Laue (U.S. Patent No. 7,374,883) in view of Lowe et al. (Nucleic Acids Res. 18:1757-1761 (1990)).

Claims 4, 8 and 22 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby mooting this rejection as it pertains to these claims.

Claim 2 is amended herein to recite a pair of oligonucleotides for amplification of a target sequence of the genome of SARS coronavirus, said pair selected from the group consisting of: (a) a first oligonucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4: TAGTAGCTGT ACCGACTGGT TATGTT, or the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, and a second oligonucleotide sequence of: SEQ ID NO:7: GAAGCTATTC GTCACGTTTCG, or the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:7; (b) a first oligonucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3: TCCACCAGGT GACCAGTTTA AACATCTT, or the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, and a second oligonucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:8: TGC GTGGATT GGCTTTGATG T, or the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:8; (c) a first oligonucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:25: TTGGCATGGA AGTCACACCT T, or the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:25, and a second oligonucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:29: CAGAACAAAC CCAAGGAAAT T, or the complementary

nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:29; and any combination of (a) through (c) above. Thus, claim 2 now recites the primer pairs suggested by the Examiner and as such claim 2 and claims dependent thereon are patentable over Laue in view of Lowe et al. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

B. Claims 2, 8, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Briese et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No 20040265796) in view of Lowe et al.

As discussed above, claim 8 is canceled herein without disclaimer or prejudice, thereby mooted this rejection as it pertains to this claim. As discussed above, claim 2 is amended herein to recite the primer pairs suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 2 and dependent claim 20 are patentable over Briese et al. in view of Lowe et al. and respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

C. Claims 19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Laue in view of Lowe et al. in further view of Compton (*Nature* 350:91-92 (1991)).

Claims 19 and 21 depend from claim 2. For the same reasons discussed above for claim 2, applicants submit that claims 19 and 21 are patentable over Laue in view of Lowe et al. in further view of Compton and respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

D. Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Laue in view of Lowe et al. in further view of Tyagi (*Nature Biotechnol.* 14:303-308 (1996)).

Claim 15 depends from claim 2. For the same reasons set forth above regarding claim 2, applicants submit that claim 15 is patentable over Laue in view of Lowe et al. in further view of Tyagi and respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

New Claims 23-31

New claims 23-31 have been added herein. New claims 23-31 depend from claim 6 which is indicated to be allowable. Support for these new claims is found in the language of original claims 1-21 and throughout the specification as filed. Accordingly, applicants believe

that these new claims do not introduce any new matter, and applicants respectfully request entry and allowance thereof.

The points and concerns raised in the Office Action having been addressed in full herein, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Should there be any remaining concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expedite the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0220 in the amount of \$130.00 as fee for a one-month extension of time for large entity. This amount is believed to be correct. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully submitted,



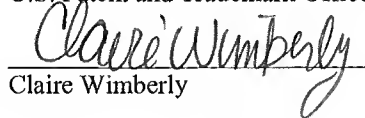
Alice M. Bonnen
Registration No.: 57,154

Customer Number 20792

Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
P.O. Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: (919) 854-1400
Facsimile: (919) 854-1401

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 26, 2011.


Claire Wimberly